

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A method to improve fatigue resistance of a threaded tubular connection subjected to stress variations, the connection including a male tubular element including a tapered male threading, and a female tubular element including a tapered female threading that cooperates with the male threading by makeup to produce a rigid mutual connection of the tubular elements with radial interference between radial load transfer zones of the threadings,

wherein the threadings each have a load flank extending substantially perpendicularly to an axis of the threadings, and wherein radial load transfer zones are at a radial distance from envelopes of thread roots of the male and female threadings and form an angle of less than 40° with the axis of the threadings.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 30, in which the radial load transfer zones are constituted by i) a crest of at least one helical protuberance formed on the thread root of at least one threading with respect to the envelope of the thread root and ii) a facing zone located on a thread crest of the corresponding threading.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 31, in which the at least one protuberance is disposed on the male thread root.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 31, in which the crest of the at least one protuberance is convexly domed.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 31, in which the at least one protuberance is connected to the thread root via one or more concave rounded portions.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 31, in which each of the at least one protuberance is constituted by a crest of a helical rib formed on the thread root of a threading under consideration.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 35, in which the radial load transfer zones include crests of at least two helical ribs in axial succession along the thread root of the male threading.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 31, in which the facing zones located on the thread crest of the corresponding threading each have a recessed helix partially enveloping each protuberance.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 31, in which a height of the at least one protuberance with respect to the thread root is in a range from about 0.2 to about 0.4 mm.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 30, in which the radial load transfer zones include a crest of a boss extending from a foot of the load flank to a foot of a stabbing flank on the thread root of a threading under consideration.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 30, in which the radial load transfer zones include a crest of a boss bearing on one of a flanks of a threading under consideration.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 30, in which the radial load transfer zones are constituted by respective intermediate regions of stabbing flanks of the male and female threadings, the intermediate regions forming a smaller angle with the axis of the threadings than neighboring regions of the flanks.

Claim 42 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 41, in which an angle between the intermediate regions and the axis of the threadings is substantially zero.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim ~~[[36]]~~ 30, in which the radial load transfer zones are ramps constituting stabbing flanks of the male and female threadings over a major portion of a radial height thereof.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 43, in which an angle between the ramps and the axis of the threadings is in a range of 20° to 40°.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 43, in which an angle between the ramps and the axis of the threadings is about  $27^{\circ}$ .

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 43, in which a profile of the male threading includes a first concave rounded portion defining the thread root and tangential to the ramp.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 46, in which a profile of the male threading includes a second concave rounded portion with a smaller radius of curvature than the first rounded portion and tangential thereto and to the load flank.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 43, in which a groove defining the female thread root extends axially from a first wall constituted by the load flank to a second wall connected to the ramp of the female threading.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 48, in which a profile of the groove includes a central concave rounded portion framed by first and second rounded concave portions respectively tangential to the first and second walls and with a smaller radius of curvature than the central rounded portion.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 48, in which a profile of the female threading includes a convex rounded portion tangential to a second rounded

portion and to the ramp, a zone of inflexion between the convex rounded portion and the second rounded portion constituting the second wall.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 30, in which the radial load transfer zones are provided in a zone of full height threads or of threads termed perfect threads.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 51, in which the radial load transfer zones are also provided in a zone of imperfect threads, or in a zone of run-out threads.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): A threaded tubular connection for implementing the method according to claim 31 comprising a male tubular element including a tapered male threading, and a female tubular element including a tapered female threading that cooperates with the male threading by makeup to produce a rigid mutual connection of the tubular elements with radial interference between radial load transfer zones of the threadings, in which the radial load transfer zones are constituted by i) the crest of at least a helical protuberance formed on the thread root of at least a threading with respect to the envelope of the thread root and ii) the facing zone of the thread crest of the corresponding threading.

Claim 54 (Withdrawn): A threaded tubular connection for implementing the method according to claim 39, comprising a male tubular element including a tapered male threading, and a female tubular element including a tapered female threading that cooperates with the

male threading by makeup to produce a rigid mutual connection of the tubular elements with radial interference between radial load transfer zones of the threadings, in which the radial load transfer zones include the crest of a boss extending from the foot of the load flank to the foot of the stabbing flank on the thread root of the threading under consideration.

Claim 55 (Withdrawn): A threaded tubular connection for implementing the method according to claim 40, comprising a male tubular element including a tapered male threading, and a female tubular element including a tapered female threading that cooperates with the male threading by makeup to produce a rigid mutual connection of the tubular elements with radial interference between radial load transfer zones of the threadings, in which the radial load transfer zones include the crest of a boss bearing on one of the flanks of the threading under consideration.

Claim 56 (Withdrawn): A threaded tubular connection for implementing the method according to claim 41, comprising a male tubular element including a tapered male threading, and a female tubular element including a tapered female threading that cooperates with the male threading by makeup to produce a rigid mutual connection of the tubular elements with radial interference between radial load transfer zones of the threadings, in which the radial load transfer zones are constituted by respective intermediate regions of the stabbing flanks of the male and female threadings, the intermediate regions forming a smaller angle with the axis of the threadings than the neighboring regions of the flanks.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A threaded tubular connection for implementing the method according to claim 46, comprising a male tubular element including a tapered male threading, and a female tubular element including a tapered female threading that cooperates with the male threading by makeup to produce a rigid mutual connection of the tubular elements with radial interference between radial load transfer zones of the threadings, in which the radial load transfer zones are ramps constituting the stabbing flanks of the male and female threadings over the major portion of the radial height thereof, and the profile of the male threading including a first concave rounded portion defining the thread root and tangential to the ramp.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): A threaded tubular connection for implementing the method according to claim 48, comprising a male tubular element including a tapered male threading, and a female tubular element including a tapered female threading that cooperates with the male threading by makeup to produce a rigid mutual connection of the tubular elements with radial interference between radial load transfer zones of the threadings, in which the radial load transfer zones are ramps constituting the stabbing flanks of the male and female threadings over the major portion of the radial height thereof and a groove defining the female thread root extends axially from a first wall constituted by the load flank to a second wall that is connected to the ramp of the female threading.